

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—LIONESS OF THE NORTH—TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th av.—ROMEO AND JULIET.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE BURLINGTON EX-TRAVAGANZA OF THE FORTY THIEVES.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—SCHOOL.

BROUGHTON'S THEATRE, Twenty-fourth st.—PERPETUO—MUCH AND ABOUT A MERCHANT OF VENICE.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALIAN OPERA.—FRA DIABOLO.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—HUMPTY DUMPTY, WITH NEW FEATURES. Matinee at 1½.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—THE SEVEN DWARFS; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE WORLD OF WONDER.

GERMAN STADT THEATRE, Nos. 45 and 47 Bowery.—SIX LITTLE WARRIORS.—SIX HOEFLICHEN.

WOOD'S MUSEUM AND THEATRE, Thirtieth street and Broadway.—Afternoon and evening performance.

WATERLEY THEATRE, 21 Broadway.—ELLEN HOLLY'S BURLINGTON COMPANY.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 24 Broadway.—COMIC SKETCHES AND LIVING STATUES.—FLOTO.

THE TAMMANY, Fourteenth street.—THE HOMER MARINER, &c.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—SCHOOL.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 535 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN ENTERTAINMENTS.—SIR OF THE BLONDES.

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Tammany Building, 14th street.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS, &c.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 21 Bowery.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c. Matinee at 2½.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—EQUESTRIAN AND GYMNASTIC ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2½.

STEINWAY HALL, Fourteenth street.—THE DAVENPORT BROTHERS.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOVER'S MINSTRELS.—THE HAUNTED WIG MAKER, &c.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 613 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Wednesday, March 24, 1869.

THE NEWS.

Europe.

The cable telegrams are dated March 23.

A committee of the British House of Commons yesterday brought in a report refusing to sanction contracts made by the government with the Cunard and Inman steamships on present terms.

The strike of the cotton operatives is becoming general throughout England and Scotland. In Glasgow several mills have been compelled to suspend operations.

The government requirement for an army contingent of 100,000 men was yesterday voted by the French Chambers. The Mexican General Almonte died yesterday in Paris.

The French and Belgian papers have already published the preliminaries of the proposed conference between France and Belgium.

The Spanish Cortes yesterday decided that a person holding office under the government could not occupy a seat as a representative in the Assembly.

A number of women in Madrid have petitioned the government against military conscription.

Cuba.

The British Consul in Havana has received information from Nassau that the American brig Mary Lovell had been captured by two Spanish war vessels while in charge of a customs officer in British waters.

The Spaniards claim her as a prize because she had been blockaded, but the British Consul has laid the matter before the Captain General.

One of the Peruvian monitors had caused the sinking of the steamer towing her and seven lives were lost. Advice from Santiago state that the insurgents are massing their forces on the south side of the island.

Mexico.

A New Orleans paper says that United States troops are being rapidly concentrated in Texas on the Rio Grande border, and additional barracks are being built.

It is thought that a movement on Mexico is contemplated.

Paraguay.

Our Rio Janeiro letter is dated February 24.

The allies last session were preparing to pursue Lopez, who has been recruiting his army about twenty leagues from the capital. The people have all removed to him and Concepcion, Villa Rica, Cerro Leon and several other towns are completely deserted.

Minister McMahon remains with Lopez, and the archives of the American Legation at Asuncion have been scattered. Marshal Caxias' return to Rio Janeiro has exasperated the Emperor and the government officers, who look upon him as a deserter.

His withdrawal had nearly precipitated a disbandment of the army, and it easily needed reorganization. The cholera has appeared on the Parana and Paraguay rivers.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Anthony, of Rhode Island, was unanimously elected President pro tem.

during the absence of Mr. Colfax. He thereupon took the chair. Mr. Sprague presented a petition for woman suffrage, and advocated granting the prayer.

The bill repealing the Tenure of Office act was recommitted. Mr. Sherman introduced a bill authorizing the payment of the interest on the public debt, which was passed.

The bill to reorganize the judicial system of the United States was taken up as unfinished business. After considerable debate the bill was passed.

Mr. Wilson reported bills to abolish the office of chief of staff to the General of the Army and in relation to retired officers. The Senate then adjourned.

In the House a bill was reported from the Committee on the Revision of the Laws, extending the time three years for the revision and consolidation of the statutes of the United States.

Mr. Butler, in the debate that ensued, remarked that the commissioners charged with this work received \$5,000 a year each and incidental expenses and only four chapters had been revised.

An amendment directing that the commissioners devote their whole time to the work was agreed to, and the bill was passed.

Mr. Butler, from the Committee on Reconstruction, reported the Senate resolution for a special committee on the removal of political disabilities.

He moved non-concurrence and the motion was agreed to. In reply to Mr. Brooks, who asked if it was true that the Reconstruction Committee intended soon to present a general non-partisan amnesty bill, Mr. Butler said he hoped in a day or two to present such a measure for reference to the committee.

The House then adjourned.

The committee appointed by the Senate caucus of Monday waited on the President yesterday and submitted the modification of the Tenure of Office bill as it will be reported to-day from the Judiciary Committee.

The President expressed himself satisfied with the changes contemplated.

The Legislature.

Bills were introduced in the State Senate yesterday to amend the charters of several street railroads and making provision for the government of the county and city of New York.

A number of bills were reported and two passed, one of the latter being for the construction of a railroad in 125th street.

At the evening session several bills were ordered to a third reading.

In the Assembly a number of bills were reported.

A message from the Governor, relating a local bill, was received and read.

The bill relating to the construction of certain piers on the North river was passed and that increasing the Metropolitan Police force was recommitted.

The Speaker presented the report of Mr. Gould, President of the Erie Railroad, by which it appears that on the 19th instant the common stock of the company was \$27,000,000; preferred stock, \$5,000,000, and the funded debt, \$25,000,000.

By reason of fluctuations of the gold and silver prices.

day to day it was impossible to give the total amount with any accuracy. Several unimportant bills were passed. At the evening session the bill to aid new railroads was discussed and progressed.

Miscellaneous.

Vincent Colyer, Secretary of the United States Indian Commission, writing from Fort Gibson, Cherokee country, says the Indians on the reservations which he has visited are quiet, prosperous and rapidly advancing in civilization.

The talk of extermination which was so prevalent on the frontiers last winter alarmed them greatly, but the cheering words of President Grant's inaugural has restored their confidence, and they have resumed their spring work with renewed energy and determination.

Governor Wells, of Virginia; H. O. Bond, register of bankruptcy at Richmond, and L. E. Dudley, secretary of the Virginia Republican State Central Committee, were arrested by the police of Richmond yesterday on a charge of mail robbery.

They were all arraigned before Commissioner Cahoon and bailed until to-day. They are charged with purloining a letter of political significance only. Considerable excitement had ensued in consequence among the white and black republicans.

The democrats who resigned from the Indiana Legislature have been re-elected.

News was received at St. Louis yesterday from General Custer. He is with his command on the North fork of the Red river, near the base of the Washita Mountains, and is in no danger from hostile Indians.

The City.

A mass meeting of the laboring men of New York was held last night, at Cooper Institute, to express their sympathy with the efforts of the printers to obtain the scale of prices demanded by their society.

The great hall was filled and the meeting was addressed by several gentlemen, members of different unions.

The Cunard steamer China, Captain Hockley, will sail to-day for Liverpool via Queenstown. The mails will close at the Post office, at twelve o'clock, noon.

The steamship Mississippi for St. Thomas and Rio Janeiro, calling at Para, Pernambuco and Bahia, has been detained until this morning at ten o'clock, when she will leave pier 43 North river.

The stock market yesterday was excited over another large advance in New York Central. Government bonds were weak and declined. Gold was steady until near the close, when it showed activity, advancing to 131½.

Prominent Arrivals in the City.

Lieutenant Governor Gardner, Colonel Sibley and Wendell Phillips, of Boston, are at the St. Denis Hotel.

W. M. Ramsey, and W. Cramp, of Montreal, are at the Brevoort House.

Captain W. H. Leroy, of the United States Navy; H. C. Leroy, of New York, and George H. Calvert, Jr., of Maryland, are at the New York Hotel.

Major H. T. Wright, of the United States Army, is at the St. Charles Hotel.

General H. S. Burton, of Newport, R. I.; N. McKay, of Boston; F. McCordie, of St. Louis; General B. F. Bruce, of Madison county, and W. C. Humphrey, of South Carolina, are at the Metropolitan Hotel.

Ex-Postmaster General Randall, of Washington; John B. Allen, of Massachusetts; Captain Clark, and Lieutenant D. H. Reynolds, of the United States Army, are at the Astor House.

W. W. Richmond, of Buffalo, and Henry Wells, of Aurora, are at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Assistant Attorney General Hammond, of Albany, is at the Hoffman House.

Prominent Departures.

General Albert Pike left yesterday for Washington; General Hardee, for Pensacola; General Sheridan, Colonel Crosby and Major Chasabrown, for Chicago; George Ruter, for Memphis; A. P. Leland, for Cleveland; Captain H. C. Mahurin, for San Francisco; J. P. Hurst, for Philadelphia; Judge Salmon, of Nova Scotia, for Washington; Frederick Phillips, for Corey, Pa., and Dr. Eldridge, for St. Louis.

Mr. John E. Develin and family sailed yesterday in the steamer Charleston for Aiken, S. C.

The Proposed Compromise on the Tenure of Office—A Copperhead View of the Subject.

It appears that the difficulty in the Senate in reference to a repeal or a suspension of the Tenure of Office law has been settled among the republicans in caucus in an agreement for a modification of the law.

The main object of Congress in passing the law was to keep Secretary Stanton in the War Office during Johnson's administration.

Johnson's policy of Southern reconstruction was not the policy of Congress.

Johnson was dead-set against this policy, while Stanton was an active ally of Congress and a complete check upon Johnson in the matter of those Southern military governments.

Hence, when it was blated to Congress that Johnson had resolved upon the removal of Stanton, the two houses hit upon the Tenure of Office law, providing among other things that the members of the Cabinet shall hold their offices, respectively, during the Presidential term of their appointment and for one month thereafter, subject to removal only with the consent of the Senate.

This section of the law the Senate has agreed in caucus to strike out, so that the President may remove any member of his Cabinet at discretion, leaving him subject here only to the constitutional requirement of a concurrence of the Senate in his appointments.

But the law, in view of the havoc which Johnson otherwise might make in the absence of Congress among the radical office-holders, including Stanton, was framed to head him off in the section providing that in the absence of the Senate the President may suspend any executive subordinate; but that within twenty days after the reassembling of the Senate he shall give his reasons for such suspension, and if voted unsatisfactory by the Senate the suspended officer shall be reinstated.

Under this provision Stanton was suspended by the President and reinstated by the Senate, the reasons given for the suspension being voted insufficient.

The Senate proposes so to modify the provision that the President may make removals from office during a recess of Congress, and that with the return of the Senate he shall not be required to give his reasons for removals made, but only to report them; whereupon, if the Senate consent, the removal shall hold good, but if otherwise the party removed shall be reinstated.

Our Washington despatch states that the Senate Caucus Committee last evening waited upon the President, and submitted to him these modifications, and that he expressed himself satisfied with the bill in its proposed form.

Here are some important concessions to the President; but the reservation of the power of the Senate over removals from office is still the main question.

The copperhead organ of the Manhattan close political corporation enters a just complaint against the shabby device of only suspending this office-holders' law for the benefit of a republican President, in order that it may come into full play again in the event of the election of a democratic President.

But this copperhead organ, through its party spectacles, can see nothing in General Grant's desire to have the law removed as an obstruction in his way except a purpose to gain the power so to manipulate the republican party in his appointments as to secure another term.

in the White House. Thus we are told that "General Grant wants a second term; he knows he can be re-elected only by getting the republican nomination, and the power of removal during the last year or two of his present term is his chief reliance for packing and controlling the Republican Convention."

This is a copperhead view of General Grant's policy. It covers, too, the old democratic game which smashed the party into flinders under poor Pierce and Buchanan; and yet our copperhead Bourbons will learn nothing. They are firm in the fallacy that the President with the spoils at his command can buy another term as President, and that herein lie all the objections of General Grant to this Tenure of Office law.

We presume, however, that the copperhead oracle which has been flaunting these views of the Manhattan ring before the public will consent to the reported compromise as agreed on by the republican majority of the Senate, because it still denies to the President a decisive voice in the matter of removals from office; so the Senate may still checkmate him if they catch him "packing the Republican Convention" of 1872.

But dismissing this absurdity in regard to General Grant, the question recurs, why is the Senate so tenacious of this appellate jurisdiction over removals from office? There may be a few Presidential candidates among the conscript fathers who desire to retain a check upon General Grant as a dangerous rival, but we apprehend that the influences operating upon the radical majority in behalf of this proposed compromise have very little to do with the Presidential succession.

General Grant contemplates a searching diagnosis of retrenchment and reform. He is evidently in earnest in this business. But the affiliations of the whiskey rings, the tobacco rings, the various other internal revenue rings, the Custom House rings, and the Indian treaty and railway land and bond speculating rings and their mercenaries of the lobby, encompass the President on every side.

This powerful coalition of Treasury leeches have their allies in office, who have, we fear, their friends in the Senate, and if so General Grant must be careful in treading on the toes of these favorites, or the Senate may check him in his mad career.

Here we suspect, at all events, may be found the solution of this proposed compromise. Where hundreds of millions of money in lobby jobs and whiskey frauds, &c., are at stake retrenchment and reform must not go too fast or too far, for, after all, what is the government to the powers that be without the spoils?

Of the law in controversy we still trust that General Grant will insist upon an absolute repeal. Fresh from the people, with the House of Representatives, he directly represents the will of the people. Only one-third of the Senate represent directly the elections of 1868.

The other two-thirds, excepting reconstruction, were elected upon other issues. The House therefore should not yield to the Senate upon this office-holders' law, but hold fast to the ultimatum of the administration.

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL.—The debate in the House of Commons on the Irish Church bill concluded with a speech by Mr. Gladstone, and the division on a motion that the bill should be read a second time resulted in a triumphant majority of one hundred and eighteen for the liberal government. This result is an earnest of the final triumph of the measure.

"TIS SWEET TO HEAR THE WATCH DOG'S HONEST BARK."—Ben Butler is like one of those useful, if not comely, dogs so much prized by the Western hunter and known as a "bear dog." He will lay hold of anybody or anything, in season or out of season, badger or grizzly, Indian or skunk.

Butler's latest foray in the underbrush of Congressional thickets unearthed Schenck, of Ohio, who came out snarling, but very reluctant to do battle.

"Thrice is he armed whose cause is just," and the taunting audacity of the member from Essex was in strong contrast to the surly reluctance of the usually belligerent Schenck.

Have it out at once, gentlemen, and you will certainly amuse if you do not benefit the country. Let us know exactly what relation the honorable chairman of the Ways and Means Committee is to Sam Pike, the great distiller, and how it is that only the clauses of important bills which are most intended to enrich the revenue are accidentally omitted in the enrolment.

Not that we imagine a satisfactory explanation from the honorable gentleman from Ohio would at all squelch the inquisitive and irreverent Butler.

He would be sure to break out in a fresh place, and one of these days he'll find something.

THE KING'S JESTER.—In the good old times of the king's jester he was a fellow of some importance; for frequently with a timely joke he brought laughter from the fellows of a royal council board ready for a row.

So it appears the Senate caucus of Monday last was turned from discord to harmony among its fellows by the Senator from Oregon rising in his place and protesting that he was not a fellow, nor was he to be called a fellow by any man.

This set the table in a roar, and the Senator from Oregon carried off the prize from all his fellows of the caucus, though not himself a fellow.

HONOR WHERE HONOR IS DUE.—We have beheld with a good deal of interest the efforts which Senator Stockton is making in Congress to prevent the telegraph monopolists from fastening their chains upon the country.

In the matter of the landing of the French cable, his exertions to have the shore of the United States left open to that enterprise, and others of a similar character, merit the approbation of the entire community, and more particularly of the commercial portion.

We need another cable to Europe, and must have it, and we trust Senator Stockton will not pause in his laudable exertions until success has crowned them with full fruition.

FREE SCHOOLS.—We believe in free schools to the most liberal extent; but we sympathize with those who object to certain studies in our schools as not the most useful.

Every one does not want Latin and Greek. But this is nothing against those languages, or in favor of driving them from our free schools.

Leave them for those who want them, and extend the plan to take in the more strictly practical studies. Teach architecture and the builder's art, surveying, engineering and so on. Give public instruction in all the mechanic arts.

The Whiskey Ring as a National Legislature.

By turns we find every man in the United States Senate who is at all noteworthy for ability or breadth of view on national questions "ruled out," as the phrase is. Seven men, the country remembers, were in a minority on the great question of impeachment, and though they were men of probity and sound judgment, they were bitterly assailed for venturing to differ with the power that was in the majority.

On the question now up we see a repetition of the disgraceful fact. The debate on the Tenure of Office law has shown that some of the strongest men in the Senate are in favor of repeal.

Here are Morton and Sherman, two men with more force in them than an average twenty of their "fellows" (not counting Corbett, who is not a fellow), boldly advocating the repeal, and behold there is a desire to send them to the same limbo to which it was proposed to send Fessenden and Grimes.

Now, what is that power in the Senate that is offended and is strong enough to threaten vengeance when it cannot control the voice of the real intellectual leaders in that body? Is it the republican party? What would there be left of the republican party if it were put on one side, and on the other were put all the men who opposed impeachment and those who are now for the repeal of the Civil Tenure bill? No, it is not that; it is the whiskey ring.

Morton is right in saying that the caucus of Monday night was an "attempt to coerce by party machinery;" but it is the whiskey ring that puts the machinery in motion.

If you fancy such a creature as Conkling leading the drill that rules out Morton and Sherman on any ground of principle or statesmanship you will have before you a very ridiculous image; but if you fancy him doing the same thing in the interests of the whiskey ring the thing appears at once much more reasonable; for, viewing things from the standpoint of the ring, principles and statesmanship are not seen.

And Conkling may be the equal of anybody. Plunder being the object, and votes, not arguments, the means, the fellow who can say eye when the question is called may be the peer of the best intellect of the earth.

Nay, the little man is the greater in these cases; for exactly as man has less intellectual scope he is firmer in the faith that to "put money in your purse" is the whole end and aim of life.

Here, then, is food for thought, in the fact that the whiskey ring, or the ring pure and simple as an institution, whatever be the basis of plunder, is assuming to itself the government of this country.

People suppose that they, divided on points of principle, send Senators and Representatives to uphold their respective views in the law; but it is not so. The simple truth is that when the people suppose they elect a Senator the whiskey ring designate an agent; and this agent, suppositiously a Senator, goes to Washington to do the bidding, not of the people, but of the ring.

Having gone thus far in this career, whirling on in it as we are hour by hour, where will we stop? We are on a broad gauge of corruption here with our municipal rings and our Erie rings, and contemplative people wonder what the result may be; but this is little to the proportions corruption assumes on a national scale.

With the ring principle taking the place of everything else in the government, with our vast machinery completely in the hands of men who sink all differences of principle in their agreement to secure the plunder, what must be the fate of our cherished unity and freedom?

THE SITUATION IN MEXICO.—By special correspondence from Mexico, dated in Monterey on the 28th of February, we are informed that the entire country was wrapt in a flame of revolutionary agitation.

The people were disgusted with and sick of the Cabinet plunders of the Juarez party, the members of the government and President looking merely to the "spoils," and caring little for the general interest.

Escobedo was doing the work of extermination in Tamaulipas, and most of the other States were considerably disturbed.

General Negrete had defeated a portion of the government troops, and it was considered that others of them would join his standard.

Advocates were being plundered at all points. Advice from Texas throw out the conjecture that United States troops would soon invade Mexico and leave it open to inference that the "beginning of the end" was not far distant.

ANNEXATION IN HAYTI.—Admiral Hoff, of our home squadron, reports to the government that General Domingue, the rebel chief in the south of Hayti, asked for the intervention of the commander of the United States steamer Yantic when Salnave was threatening to bombard Aux Cayes, on the ground that he had written to Mr. Seward proposing to annex his end of the island to the United States.

Now that Salnave has been defeated we suppose new efforts will be made to push the matter in Congress; for every temporary chief in the West Indies begins to believe that he can do better under American rule than in any other way.

NOT A FELLOW.—When Senator Conkling asked Morton, of Indiana, in the Senatorial caucus the other day, why he did not bring in his fellows and tell them what to do, Senator Corbett, of Oregon, bounced to his feet and wished it understood that he was not a fellow.

"The Senator forgets," said the factious Nyp, "that it's a high honor to be a college fellow." But the Senator from Oregon could see no honor in being a fellow any how. As for the F. R. S., clearly, as Artemus Ward would have put it, "he ain't one of them fellows."

THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE IS HEARD IN THE LAND.—De Bergh invokes the machinery of justice to prevent the boring of the flippers of those edible reptiles that aid men are supposed to love; and one of his assistants makes the same appeal to prevent the boring of bears' noses.

What shall prevent the boring of the public by De Bergh and his assistants?

PROFESSIONAL MANNER.—Some days ago a city physician exposed some peccadilloes of the men about the Coroners' office, and the replies made are from two of the Coroners' doctors.

One wanted to cowl the exposing physician, but did not; and the other consoles himself with the reflection that the name of the adversary of Coroners' ways is not in the "register of respectable physicians."

What is the "register of respectable physicians?" Something they keep at the Coroners' office?

A New Era for the American Stage.

It is manifest that a new era has dawned for the American stage. We are already far removed from the Puritanical days when repressive enactments against "playgoing" were passed and enforced in almost every State.

Even the pulpit has well nigh ceased to anathematize actors and actresses, although occasionally we still hear of such an outburst of holy wrath against the theatre as was indulged in a few Sundays since by a Poughkeepsie parson.

But while a few country preachers rival the Rev. Mr. Smyth in furious invectives upon the nudities and other enormities of the Black Crook order, without, perhaps, having so conscientiously made a personal study of them, more liberal divines, like the Rev. Dr. Bellows, recognize the capabilities of the stage as a school of morals and as a source of widely extended genial influences.

Such divines accept Talfourd's assertion:—"It is only in the theatre that any image of the real grandeur of humanity, any picture of generous heroism and noble self-sacrifice is poured on the imaginations and sent warm into the hearts of the vast body of the people."

There do the lowest and most ignorant catch their only glimpse of that poetic radiance which sheds its glory around our being.

While they gaze they forget the petty concerns of their own individual lot, and recognize and rejoice in their kindred with a nature capable of high emprise, of meek suffering and of defiance to the powers of agony and the grave.

Surely, the art which makes the heart of the child leap with strange joy and enables the old man to fancy himself again a child is worthy of no mean place among the arts that refine our manners by exalting our conceptions.

Nor is the happy effect to be under-estimated which is produced by the theatre merely by affording evenings of healthy relaxation and innocent merriment to a community like our own, feverishly overworked during the day.

In fine, our Poughkeepsie parson himself could not honestly repeat against the modern stage all the maledictions which the early Christians consistently and reasonably hurled at the obscenities and abominations of Paganism as exhibited on the stage in their times.

Notwithstanding all its blemishes and defects, of European origin, the American stage has at length become an institution.

New York can now boast of having some of the largest and finest theatres in the world, and plans have already been formed for the erection of others still larger and finer.

Neither London nor Paris nor any other European capital has a proportionately greater theatre-going population.

The numerous experiments which it has encouraged during a few years past to introduce to the American public many of the best and most distinguished representatives of the stage as it exists in foreign countries—in England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and even China and Japan—strikingly illustrate the cosmopolitan character which our great metropolis is acquiring.

Not all of these experiments have been successful; and a main reason for this fact is to be found in the excessive competition which success of any kind is apt to provoke here.

For example, the introduction of *opéra bouffe* into New York was a signal for the uprising of a host of rivals and imitators of Bateman and Grau.

Burlesques became the order of the day or of the night in all the minor theatres and negro minstrel saloons.

The airs of Offenbach's operettas were echoed on every hand organ in the streets, as well as by the orchestras of the very theatres most ambitious to promote a new Shaksperian revival.

The direct result of this overdoing the whole business was the dispersion of the two leading *opéra bouffe* troupes, which were sent flying about the country from Albany to Washington.

These troupes, indeed, will soon come back to New York—the one to occupy, under the direction of Mme. Irma, the elegant little theatre of John Brougham, and the other to produce in the French theatre "La Vie Parisienne," at the well merited benefit to be tendered to Manager Grau on Easter Monday.

Especially in view of the utter failure of Italian Opera during the present season, except when galvanized to a semblance of life equally brilliant and brief on the memorable "Kellogg nights," the two *opéra bouffe* companies will be heartily welcomed on their return.At the same time it is due to both these troupes to say that by the splendid *mise-en-scene* of some of the operettas performed by them, by the completeness of their arrangements for filling subordinate parts and for their choruses, as well as by the superior qualifications of certain artists, either as singers or as actors, or as both, they have contributed in no small measure to elevate the standard of public taste.

Their beneficial influence is perceptible in all the theatres in town. No manager in the new theatrical era which has now commenced will venture to put a piece on the stage in the slovenly manner which used to be tolerated.